Continuation of FTV Channel

2957. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting expressed its opinion for continuation of FTV Channel;

(b) whether there are other private channels showing obscenity and pornographic pictures/serials, etc.; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Consultative Committee of MPs, attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, recommended to take up with the FTV channel operator, the need to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules made thereunder. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had taken up the matter with the FTV channel operator and they had assured to adhere to the prescribed codes.

(b) Channels re-transmitted through cable have to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Code as prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. In case of any contravention of the code, the authorized officers under the Act are to take action.

(c) Does not arise.

Policy on film finance

2958. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banks have now authorized to finance film makers to the tune of 50 per cent subject to certain terms and conditions stipulated in a policy laid down by Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the policy and will it be subject to approval of the Censor Board?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. RBI & IDBI have formulated guidelines for banks and financial institutions to finance the film

industry respectively. According to the scheme evolved by IDBI the financial institutions will initially focus on financing film production activity of corporate entities. While there is no upper limit for sanction, the minimum quantum of assistance would normally be not less than Rs. 20 million. The quantum of assistance would not exceed 50% of the budget, the debt-equity ratio would not exceed 1:1 and the promoter's contribution has to be at least 30 per cent of the estimated budget. Part of the equity contribution, not exceeding 20 per cent of the estimated budget can be raised in the form of advances from distributors against sale of territories music/video rights etc. The period of repayment of loan would not exceed two years and loans would be sanctioned against various forms of securities specified in the scheme.

Under the RBI scheme, Banks may provide finance to film producers (corporate as well as non-corporate entities) with good track record in the relevant field. Banks may also provide finance to these entities for production of films in participation with National Film Development Corporation Limited. Banks can finance up to 50 per cent of the project cost on merits. Producers are required to bring in at least 35 to 40 per cent of the budget of the film. Banks may provide finance to such projects where the total cost of production of a film does not exceed Rs. 10 crores.

The period of loan under this scheme may be fixed based on the financing bank's assessment of cash generation of the project. While these are the broad guidelines, the banks are free to advance loans based on their own experience and other relevant information keeping in view the spirit of the guidelines.

Approval of the Central Board of Film Certification has to be obtained before public exhibition of a film.

Women holding post of Judges

2959. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of women holding the post of Judges is quite dismal; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to give full representation of women in higher judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The number of sitting women Judges in the